

RECOGNIZING TEWKSBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF CALIFON, NEW JERSEY AS A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2011*

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tewksbury Elementary School of Califon, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Tewksbury Elementary School is proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement, and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I commend Mr. Jim Miller, the faculty, the students, the parents, and the entire community on receiving this prestigious award. Tewksbury Elementary School is proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2011*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to cast a vote on Roll Call 741 on the evening of Friday, September 23, 2011.

I strongly oppose H.R. 2401 and I would have voted NO on its passage. H.R. 2401 would delay indefinitely two important public health regulations under the Clean Air Act, the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. These long overdue rules will prevent thousands of premature deaths from respiratory and cardiovascular disease and yield billions of dollars in net benefits each year. H.R. 2401 would block the Environmental Protection Agency from updating these protections, placing vulnerable populations, including children and seniors, at even greater risk. I will continue to oppose legislation that exposes American families to harmful pollution and reduces the quality of the air we breathe.

**RECOGNIZING THE PEOPLE OF LOUISA COUNTY FOLLOWING THE AUGUST 23RD EARTHQUAKE**

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2011*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the people of Louisa County following the earthquake that rattled the East Coast on August 23, 2011. The 5.8 magnitude earthquake—which was centered in the 7th District of Virginia—was one of the most widely felt in American history, ranging from Alabama to as far north as Canada.

The August 23rd earthquake and its aftershocks had a devastating effect on the Louisa community—destroying homes, closing businesses, and severely damaging schools. The effects of the earthquake cannot be measured by dollars alone. This was a rare event that

has disrupted lives, changed routines and has forced the citizens of Louisa County to adapt in ways that they never expected.

The day after the earthquake, I had the chance to visit the community to survey the damage and meet with local officials, first responders, business owners, and families who were affected by this sudden and unexpected natural disaster. Communities and individuals were suddenly faced with the need to complete unexpected and expensive repairs in order to live and work in their homes and businesses. We should all be proud of the way the greater Louisa community has responded and its ongoing efforts of people to help their neighbors during this difficult time. I also want to commend our local and state officials who have worked tirelessly over the past several weeks with federal officials to assess the damage and determine what is needed to help people recover and get the community back on its feet.

While in Louisa, I also visited the North Anna Power Station operated by Dominion Virginia Power, which is located only 12 miles north of the epicenter of the quake. The team at North Anna acted promptly and decisively to safely shut down the two nuclear reactors and thus far no major damage has been reported. I was extremely encouraged by the workers at the power station, who did everything they were supposed to keep the plant and the surrounding community safe in an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the residents of Louisa County for coming together during this time of crisis. I commend them for their continued strength and resolve as the community continues to rebuild following the unexpected disaster.